

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 07-02

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates
POSITION: Commercial Assistant, FSN-09; FP-4
OPENING DATE: February 27, 2007
CLOSING DATE: Close of business March 13, 2007
WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week
GRADE LEVEL: *Not-Ordinarily Resident: Position Grade: FP-4 to be confirmed by Washington
*Ordinarily Resident: Position Grade: FSN-09

NOTE: ALL APPLICANTS WHO ARE NOT THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF USG EMPLOYEES OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED TO POST AND UNDER CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY **MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus is seeking an individual for the position Commercial Assistant in the Economic/Commercial Section.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

Maintains a wide range of contacts among government officials and private sector individuals in order to serve as the primary advisor to American officers on issues related to U.S. commercial activities, including economic sanctions, bilateral trade developments, trade promotion and disputes, USDOC export license checks and verifications, and market trends and government policies that affect trade and investment. Serves as the initial point of contact for Syrian businesses and American businesses and their local agents on all commercial-related issues.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

NOTE: All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

EDUCATION: Possession of a bachelor's degree in economics, law, marketing, management, commerce, business administration, or related field is required.

EXPERIENCE: From two to three years of professional experience in economics, marketing, trade, private sector business, management, banking or a related field. From one to two years of professional experience in an English language environment, or interpreting, translating, or teaching Arabic to English.

LANGUAGE: Level IV (Fluent) English with strong written communication skill.
At this level an employee is required to possess a high degree of proficiency in both written and spoken English, Including the ability to translate the host country language into precise and correct English, and English into the applicable foreign language. On occasion, an employee at this level might be expected to act as an interpreter in situations where considerable importance is attached to proper word meaning.

Level V Arabic, Professional Translator/Interpreter or Equivalent:

This level is essentially limited to professional translators and interpreters whose proficiency in written and spoken English truly matches that of a well-educated native speaker. This includes the ability to deal effectively with highly technical and sophisticated terminology in which fine nuances of meaning may at times assume major importance in negotiations. At this level an employee should be capable of simultaneous translation, as in the case of conference reporting.

ABILITIES: Ability to gather, analyze and present economic data, trade information, and laws and regulations (both Syrian and American) in a concise and coherent manner.

SKILLS: Customer service ethics; poise and tact in dealing with the public; ability to translate and interpret from Arabic into English and vice-versa; and familiarity with Microsoft Office, the Internet, and specialized business database software; basic mathematical skills necessary.

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| SELECTION PROCESS |
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When equally qualified, Eligible Family Members and U.S. Veterans will be given preference. Therefore, it is essential that all candidates address the required qualifications above in the application. After initial screening the best-qualified candidates will be interviewed.

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Management will consider nepotism/conflict of interest, budget, and residency status in determining successful candidacy.
2. Current employees serving a probationary period are not eligible to apply.
3. Currently employed US Citizen Eligible Family Members (EFMs) who hold a FMA appointment are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of that appointment.
4. Currently employed NORs hired under a Personal Service Agreement (PSA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment , unless currently hired into a position with a When actually Employed (WAE) work schedule.

TO APPLY

Interested applicants for this position should submit the following or the application will not be considered:

1. Application for Federal Employment (OF-612); or
2. A current resume or curriculum vitae that provides the same information as an OF-612; plus
3. Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must provide a copy of their FORM DD-214 with their application.
- 4. Any other documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above.**

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION, OTHERWISE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED:

- **Only applications received in the Human Resources Office before the closing date will be eligible for consideration.**
- **Insert Vacancy No. in your application.**
- **Applications and a copy of the Syrian ID card or legal residency & work permit.**
- **A copy of school/university certificate.**
- **Proof of previous work experience(s) required.**

Applications which are inadequate or incomplete, will not be considered.

Application and C.V. will become the property of the Embassy and will not be returned.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO

Human Resources Office
 American Embassy Damascus
 2, Al-Mansour Street
 P.O. Box 29
 Damascus – Syria
 Fax No. (963-11) 3391-3999

DEFINITIONS

1. AEFM: A type of EFM that is eligible for direct hire employment on either a Family Member Appointment (FMA) or Temporary Appointment (TEMP) provided s/he meets all of the following criteria:
 - US citizen;
 - Spouse or dependent who is at least age 18;
 - Listed on the travel orders of a Foreign or Civil Service or uniformed service member permanently assigned to or stationed at a US Foreign Service post or establishment abroad with a USG agency that is under COM authority;
 - Is resident at the sponsoring employee's or uniform service member's post of assignment abroad, approved safe haven abroad, or alternate safe haven abroad; and
 - Does not receive a USG annuity or pension based on a career in the US Civil, Foreign or uniform services.
2. EFM: Family Members at least age 18 listed on the travel orders of a Foreign or Civil Service or uniformed service member permanently assigned to or stationed to a US Foreign Service post or establishment abroad with a USG agency that is under COM authority who do not meet the definition of AEFM above.

3. Member of Household: A MOH is a person who: 1) Has accompanied, but is not/not on the travel orders of a U.S. citizen Foreign or Civil Service employee or uniform service member permanently assigned to or stationed at a U.S. Foreign service post or establishment abroad; 2) Has been declared by the sponsoring employee to the Chief of Mission as part of his/her household; and 3) Resides at post with the sponsoring employee.
4. Ordinarily Resident (OR): A citizen of the host country or a citizen of another country who has shifted the main residency focus to the host country and has the required work and/or residency permits for employment in country.
5. Not-Ordinarily Resident (NOR): Typically NORs are US Citizen EFMs and EFMs of FS, GS, and uniformed service members who are eligible for employment under an American USG pay plan, on the travel orders and under Chief of Mission authority, or other personnel having diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The US Mission in Damascus provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation. The Department of State also strives to achieve equal employment opportunity in all personnel operations through continuing diversity enhancement programs.

The EEO complaint procedure is not available to individuals who believe they have been denied equal opportunity based upon marital status or political affiliation. Individuals with such complaints should avail themselves of the appropriate grievance procedures, remedies for prohibited personnel practices, and/or courts for relief.